



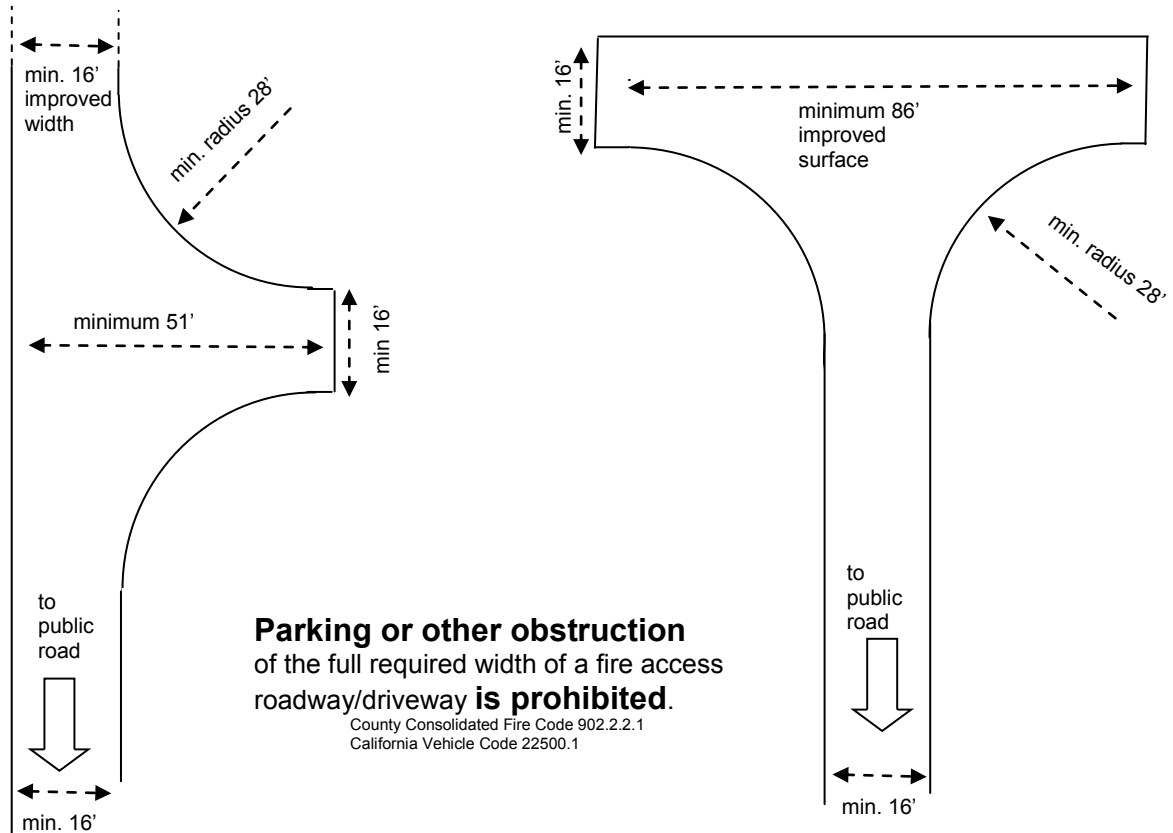
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

5510 OVERLAND AVE., SUITE 250, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123 • (858) 974-5999

Emergency Vehicle Turnaround

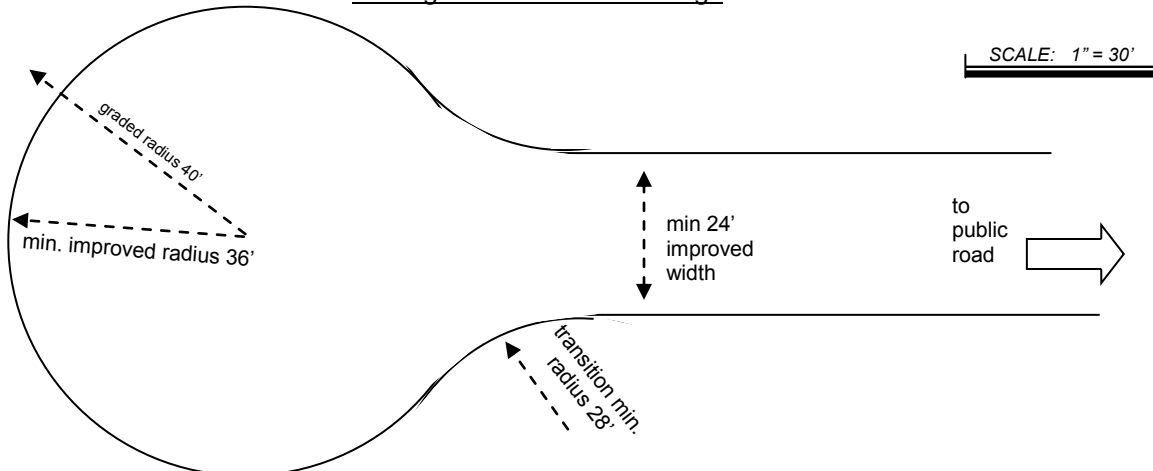
Hammerhead Turnaround

Residential fire access road/driveway serving no more than two dwellings



Cul-de-sac Turnaround

Residential fire access road serving three or more dwellings





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Code excerpts:

SECTION 503 FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

Sec. 503.1 General. Fire apparatus access roads, including private residential driveways, shall be required for every building hereafter constructed when any portion of an exterior wall of the first story is located more than 150 feet from the closest point of fire department vehicle access.

Fire apparatus access roads, except private residential driveways, shall be provided and maintained for purposes of rapid and reliable fire apparatus access and for unobstructed traffic circulation for evacuation or relocation of civilians during a wildfire or other emergency.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided and maintained in compliance with this section and the most recent edition and any amendments thereto, of public and private road standards as adopted by the County of San Diego (San Diego County Standards for Private Roads and Public Roads, San Diego County Department of Public Works). The fire code official may modify the requirements of this section if the modification provides equivalent access.

Sec. 503.2.5 Dead ends. All dead-end fire access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for turning around emergency apparatus. A cul-de-sac shall be provided in residential areas where the access roadway serves more than 2 structures. The minimum unobstructed radius width for a cul-de-sac in a residential area shall be 36 feet paved, 40 feet graded, or as approved by the fire code official. The fire code official shall establish a policy identifying acceptable turnarounds for various project types.

Sec. 503.2.1 Dimensions. The dimensions of fire apparatus access roads shall be in accordance with the following:

(a) Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed improved width of not less than 24 feet, except for single-family residential driveways serving no more than two single-family dwellings, which shall have a minimum of 16 feet of unobstructed improved width. Any of the following, which have separated lanes of one-way traffic: gated entrances with card readers, guard stations or center medians, are allowed, provided that each lane is not less than 14 feet wide.

(b) Fire apparatus access roads that are public or private roads which are provided or improved as a result of a Tentative Map, Tentative Parcel Map or a Major/Minor Use Permit shall have the dimensions as set forth by the County of San Diego Standards for Public and Private Roads.

(c) All fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

(d) Vertical clearances or road widths shall be increased when the fire code official determines that vertical clearances or road widths are not adequate to provide fire apparatus access.

(e) Vertical clearances or road width may be reduced when the fire code official determines the reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus. In cases where the vertical clearance has been reduced, approved signs shall be installed and maintained indicating the amount of vertical clearance.

Sec. 503.2.4 Roadway radius. The horizontal inside radius of a fire apparatus access road shall comply with the County public and private road standards approved by the Board of Supervisors. The horizontal inside radius for a private residential driveway shall be a minimum of 28 feet, as measured on the inside edge of the improvement width or as approved by the fire code official. The length of vertical curves of fire apparatus access roads shall not be less than 100 feet, or as approved by the fire code official.

Sec. 503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus (not less than 50,000 lbs.) *(not less than 75,000 lbs. for most fire districts)* and shall be provided with an approved surface so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities. *(see Sec. 503.2.3.1)*